

10/581343

Attorney's Docket No. 1011350-000373

AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 02 JUN 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of )  
Hiroshima Fujimaru et al. ) Group Art Unit:  
Application No.: ) Examiner:  
Filed: June 2, 2006 ) Confirmation No.:  
For: PARTICULATE WATER RETAINING )  
MATERIAL FOR CULTIVATING PLANT )  
HAVING WATER ABSORBENT RESIN )  
AS MAIN COMPONENT )

FIRST INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the accompanying information is being submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

Date: June 2, 2006

By:

  
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Substitute for form 1449/PTO &amp; 1449B/PTO

Complete if Known

10/581343

**FIRST**  
**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE**  
**STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**  
 (use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Application

Filing Date June 2, 2006

First Named Inventor Hirotama FUJIMARU et al.

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket No. 1011350-000373

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Document Number	Kind Code (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Issue/Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY)
	4,587,308		Makita et al.	05-06-1986
	6,286,254		Obonai et al.	09-11-2001

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Document Number	Kind Code (if known)	Country	Date of Publication (MM-DD-YYYY)	STATUS						
					Translation	Partial Translation	Eng. Lang. Summary	International Search Report	IPER	Abstract	Cited in Spec
	* WO 98/49252	A1	WIPO	11-05-1998				X			
	* 9-78050	A	Japan	03-25-1997				X			
	* 0 945 052	A1	Europe	09-29-1999				X			
	* 2000-139208	A	Japan	05-23-2000							X
	* 62-273283	A	Japan	11-27-1987							X

**NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.

\* Copy Attached

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.